



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,046	10/23/2003	Ian Campbell McGill	1170/39383B	6445
279 7590 02/23/2005 TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI, BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD. 105 WEST ADAMS STREET SUITE 3600 CHICAGO, IL 60603			EXAMINER PERRIN, JOSEPH L	
			ART UNIT 1746	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/692,046	Applicant(s) MCGILL ET AL.	
	Examiner Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,6,8,9,12,13,15,16,21,22,24,25,28,29,31 and 32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7,10,11,14,17-20,23,26,27 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/856,412.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20040730; 20031023</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-4, 7, 10-11, 14, 17-20, 23, 26-27 & 30 in the reply filed on 14 December 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "the process practiced by the Group II apparatus is not materially different than the process defined by the claims of Group I. This is not found persuasive because the apparatus is defined by the structural limitations and in such apparatus claims, process steps are considered intended use which are given little patentable weight. Claims directed to apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. *In re Danly*, 263 F.2d 844, 847, 120 USPQ 528, 531 (CCPA 1959). "[A]pparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does." *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.*, 909 F.2d 1464, 1469, 15 USPQ2d 1525, 1528 (Fed. Cir. 1990). (emphasis in original) Moreover, the search for one group is not necessarily required for the other and the different claim sets have acquired separate status in the art, as indicated in the Restriction Requirement.

2. Moreover, it is noted that applicant's claims, which appear to be more in line with European format, are not consistent with U.S. Practice. The claims of Group II are directed to an apparatus, which are dependent on method claims. Applicant is reminded of 35 U.S.C. §101, which states:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title. (emphasis added)

Therefore, applicant's claims attempting to claim both apparatus and method limitations together in single claims, contradict 35 U.S.C. §101.

3. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

5. Applicant is advised that should claims 1-4, 7, 10-11 & 14 be found allowable, claims 17-20, 23, 26-27 & 30, respectively, will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 14, 17 & 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 4,481,786 to BASHARK. BASHARK discloses a washing machine with AC induction motor and operating "water drain or pump-out

Art Unit: 1746

mode.” It is noted that applicant’s step of “stopping the pump...for a second period of time which is less than 10% of said first period of time” reads on a stopping time of 0%, and thus the “stopping the pump” step is construed as being optional and would read on a washing machine which starts a drain pump until a flow rate reduces to substantially zero. Recitation of BASHARK reads on applicant’s claimed invention.

8. Claims 1-4, 7, 10-11, 14, 17-20, 23, 26-27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 61-162980 (cited by applicant; no translation readily available at the time of this Office action; English abstract submitted by the Examiner). In the abstract, JP ‘980 discloses a washing machine with a motor which drives washing and dewatering (draining) operations intermittently (repeating ON/OFF steps). The Figures also show repeating ON/OFF operations with the OFF operation time being a fraction (less than 10%) of the ON operation time. If, assuming *arguendo*, Applicant takes the position that JP ‘890 does not disclose the exact ranges and/or values as claimed by Applicant, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to optimize such ranges since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233, 255 (CCPA 1955). See also *In re Waite*, 77 USPQ 586 (CCPA 1948); *In re Scherl*, 70 USPQ 204 (CCPA 1946); *In re Irmischer*, 66 USPQ 314 (CCPA 1945); *In re Norman*, 66 USPQ 308 (CCPA 1945); *In re Swenson*, 56 USPQ 372 (CCPA 1942); *In re Sola*, 25 USPQ 433 (CCPA 1935); *In re Dreyfus*, 24 USPQ 52 (CCPA 1934). Moreover, it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result

Art Unit: 1746

effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Conclusion

9. It is noted that JP 61-162980 was cited in the International search report dated 20 March 2000 as an "X" reference. Although other references were cited as "X" references over claim(s) 1-6 (claims 1-23 of the instant application) the references are not deemed necessary as prior art rejections since JP '980 appears to be the most pertinent reference with regard to applicant's claimed invention.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-1305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30, except alternate Fridays.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1746

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1746

jlp